

MOTION PICTURE NEWS and COMMENT



Pearl Sindelar
The Lavender Lady
Leading Woman of
Pathe Company

AMONG THE PLAYERS

Latest Doings of Prominent Screen Artists Throughout the Country—An Attractive Leading Lady Chats About Her Work.

Marc MacDermott will be seen in a new series of Edison films commencing April 1. The series will comprise ten stories to be published simultaneously in "The Popular Magazine," under the title "The Man Who Disappeared." Richard Washburn Child is the author.

Clara Kimball Young, who appears in "Goodness Gracious," the delightful farce at the Vitaphone, is displaying her versatility by acting a strongly emotional role in "My Official Wife." This five-part picture will be shown at the Vitaphone Theatre shortly.

Edith Storey has little chance to try this "Home Sweet Home" stuff. In preparing "The Christian," she had to visit England. Now she is in California acting in a Spanish picture. From there she will go to Florida, then to the mountains of North Carolina, and after that to the wilds of Labrador.

Mabel Normand has just received a letter from the chief engineer of the railway line of Western Australia in which she is informed that the whole official staff of the system has been watching her career in pictures for the last two years with the greatest enjoyment. Such is really world-wide fame.

Norma Phillips, "Our Mutual Girl," continues to make celebrities. On Wednesday morning Commander Evans of the East South Pole expedition, went to the studio and was photographed with her. He is shown chatting with "Margaret," and autographing a photograph for her. A few days earlier Blanche Ring, and the entire cast of "When Claudia Smiles," were filmed at the studio with the same actress.

Not even a leopard can resist Bess Meredyth. She was recently photographed with two of them and now they try if she doesn't visit them every day.

Adelle Lane, of the Selig Company, is a very capable, emotional actress, and is an especial favorite with the "rob squads." She is famous for her modesty.

Carlyle Blackwell has purchased another motor car. Fat pay envelopes are commonplace around the studios.

Mona Darkfeather has acquired a white mangled limousine. "Lo, the poor Indian" is old stuff.

Grace Curran says her acting in the "Lullaby" series is proving highly educational. She is learning geography, astronomy and zoology as a result of the unique situations in the stories.

Mary Pickford and Harold Lockwood, who play opposite her, have been showing the Los Angeles actors that there are some like people in the East.

Edna Mason inherits her long black hair from her Spanish parents. When she is to play a demure part it takes some pulling and two quarts of water to make her hair behave.

"Tennessee's Partner," the play written by Arthur C. Hinton from Bret Harte's story of the same name, will be seen in a few weeks as a motion picture. Esther Williams, Jane Corcoran and Edmund Walters, all of whom had leading parts in the original stage production, will appear in the film version.

Before joining the Universal Pacific, Harry Wilfred Lucas played the lead opposite Rose Stahl in "The Chorus" for about five years.

Harry Pollard and Margarita Fischer were recently turned out of a picture theatre for laughing at one of their own most serious pictures. Margarita, noticing one of Harry's mannerisms in the picture, let him that he would soon re-

peat it. He did, and they both started to titter. The audience stared and an usher appeared on the port bow, hissing "Say, if you two don't like this picture, remember there's others as do. If you want to kid it get your money back and pull that comedy stuff outside." This only made things worse, and they had to retreat hastily.

Santa Monica Canyon may not seem very suggestive of the Emerald Isle, but it is there that Thomas Ince has been getting a fine series of Irish stories, with realistic settings.

When Pauline Bush began acting she was almost a confirmed invalid. The California climate and the outdoor life have entirely cured her. So much so that she is paid a large salary for taking a rest cure.

Irving Cummings, who has recently been with Pathe Freres, has returned to Mutual films, and will now be seen in Thanhouser pictures. Irving has been changing around so frequently that he is known as "Who-are-you-with" Cummings, but he is said to be under a long term contract with Thanhouser.

Maurice Costello has just received a letter mailed at Rangoon, Burma, and addressed simply "Maurice Costello, Vitaphone Cinema Actor." Maurice thinks the delivery of this letter was due to the thundering reverberations of his fame, but in spite of these rumbles it seems as if the postoffice along the way ought to get quite a batch of credit. The letter was from the nine-year-old daughter of a British army officer.

The Fort Lee plant of the Eclair Film Company was totally destroyed by fire, together with all of the films which were stored in the vaults, on Thursday. Manager Henry Maire stated that the loss was \$500,000. The factory will be rebuilt at once. A reel of motion pictures of the fire was made.

H. B. Warner, the prominent actor, has been engaged to appear in "The Lost Paradise" for the Famous Players Company.

"THE LAVENDER LADY"

Pearl Sindelar Is Very Popular, but Still More Modest.

To turn other persons' heads without having your own turned is a feat which is accomplished with comparative rarity. It means a character which combines strength and sympathy, besides a number of other fine attributes which we don't know just how to define. One of the modest possessors of such a personality is Pearl Sindelar, who plays leading parts in Pathe motion pictures. Miss Sindelar has been appearing in films just eighteen months, but she is already regarded as little short of a divinity by thousands of people who have never heard of the German Kaiser, Theodore Roosevelt or other prominent self-advertisers of many years' standing. In fact, she could start a very respectable stamp collection from the letters of her admirers in "Furrin parts." Her nickname is an illustration of her popularity. At the studio and among her acquaintances she is known as "The Lavender Lady," which is a title implying so much that is charming that it is not lightly won.

When we arrived at Miss Sindelar's home we were primed with the sort of questions interviewers use, but, fortunately, we did not have to drag them out. "The Lavender Lady" is not the sort you interview. You just talk with her, and realize just a loss it was to the legitimate stage when she left it to appear in pictures. Thinking of this, we asked her

how she liked pictures as compared with the stage. "Well," she laughed, "I just love them both. I miss the inspiration of an audience, but I don't mind, because it's harder work and it puts the burden of proof on me. My success or failure is entirely dependent on myself. On the stage there are many extraneous things which help a person out, but not so in the pictures. So every time I hear that a picture has met with approval I feel that I have accomplished a little something all by myself."

"In a theatre it's easy enough to tell whether the audience likes an actress' work," we commented, "but how do you know whether a picture pleases or not?"

"This way," answered Miss Sindelar, "I receive a large box and displaying hundreds of letters. 'These notes come from all sorts of people in every part of the world, and you can easily imagine how encouraging they are. A popular idea seems to be that motion picture actresses receive only 'mash' notes, but, happily, that is not the case. In fact, the majority of them come from girls and women, who write to tell me how certain plays have helped or entertained them, and lots of the ones that come from men are of the same type.'"

"Speaking of 'mash' notes, how many proposals do you receive in a month?" we inquired.

"I always throw them away and keep no count. The last season I was with 'The Girl in the Taxi' I did keep a record. There were just 565 of them."

After a rapid mental calculation of our own chances based on these figures we hastily changed the subject.

"Aside from ability along dramatic lines, what is necessary for a motion picture actress?" we asked, amiably.

"If she expects to enjoy life very much, she needs to be an athlete. When I began I could neither swim nor ride horseback, but that was a positive joy to my director. He promptly staged me in pictures calling for drowning scenes and girls being carried off on runaway horses. Believe me, he got realism! Why, my insurance agent met me on the street one day and immediately notified his company to cancel my accident policy on the strength of the perpetually scared expression I was wearing."

The pluck which made such realistic "stunts" possible has been amply rewarded in "The Lavender Lady's" case. After a year and a half in the pictures she is one of the most widely known and universally liked motion picture actresses in the world. She also enjoys another very unique honor. She is regarded as the patron saint of the Phi Gamma Delta college fraternity.

John Templeton McCarthy, afterward a judge of the Supreme Court of California, was the founder of Phi Gamma Delta, and he was also Miss Sindelar's grandfather. As a result the pretty actress has been the guest of honor at numerous banquets of this fraternity in all parts of the country. One of these occurred in the chapter house at the University of California. The boys discovered that their guest had no Phi Gamma Delta pin. Instantly everyone in the place was offered to her. In order to settle the matter the members drew lots, and the winner was allowed to give his pin to the actress, who considers it one of her choicest possessions.

Pearl Sindelar is a native of California, and is a representative of the finest type of American womanhood. Motion pictures are still far from being all that they might be, but with serious actors and actresses like Pearl Sindelar the field of this art will soon be a thing of the past.

ANOTHER FILM THEATRE.
Beginning to-morrow, Proctor's Fifth

at the Bronx Zoological Park, has recognized this opportunity and has accomplished almost incredible things. He has prepared films showing the entire life history of numerous species of animals and plants, and has become so interested in the work that he has built a special laboratory and studio of his own at Scarsdale, where he is constantly creating new marvels of motion picture photography. Within a few months Mr. Ditmars hopes to have completed a series of reels which will cover the general field of a course in zoology. One of these reels, devoted to snakes, has been completed. It shows sixty-five species, including common ones and rarities, from every part of the world. Different types of snakes are shown, catching and devouring their prey and doing the other things which go to make up the varied round of a serpent's career. Typical life cycles are also given. Other animal groups are being similarly treated. The series will be designed for use in schools and for public display. It will be supplemented by more pictures, which when completed will cover the whole range of a college course in biology, botany and zoology. Any one who has ever worked in a poorly equipped laboratory, where only mounted specimens are obtainable for study, will realize what tremendous value such pictures will have for the serious student.

Mr. Ditmars believes that the day is not so very far distant when New York will have a motion picture theatre devoted entirely to the showing of pictures of real things. The programme will consist of travel, scenic, industrial, scientific and news pictures. There are thousands who would welcome such a theatre, but as yet the man has not appeared who has sufficient courage to make so bold a departure from the conventional. Meanwhile we will keep readers of this page informed concerning such pictures of real things as are now being shown.

A LIMITLESS FIELD

The Public Enjoys Pictures of Actual Events.

"The real strength of the moving picture is in its ability to bring to us rare, distant and vital scenes of actual life." Practically every one will agree with this statement from a recent editorial on the films. Not only will nearly every one agree, but there are many persons, who care not a whit for the dramas and comedies of the "movies," who will eagerly grasp any opportunity to see what can be briefly described as pictures of real things.

The range of the dramatic picture is extremely limited, but the range of pictures of realities is literally infinite. It is generally conceded that there is no such thing as a new plot. The best that can be hoped for is an old story with good variations. Only a few film manufacturers have yet wakened up to a realization of the opportunities of fact pictures.

In travel views alone there are limitless possibilities. Every one has the wanderlust, but very few have the chance to indulge it. Motion pictures not only show how places look, but they make the beholder feel as if he were actually on the spot. They are without question the best substitutes for travel that the world has ever known. We have received a number of letters from persons who say that they would go to considerable trouble to see good pictures of foreign places or unfamiliar spots in our own country, but not enough of such film is shown. Scenes seem to be used largely to piece out a reel which too frequently is chiefly occupied by a mindless comedy.

The popularity of the various news pictures shows the interest which the public takes in seeing things which actually exist and events as they occur, even if they are most commonplace.

In science there is another almost untouched field for motion photography. Raymond L. Ditmars, curator of reptiles

PICTURES OF REAL THINGS.

"Insects," with a lecture by Dr. Ditmars. Lecture especially adapted for children. American Museum of Natural History, March 28, 10:30 A. M.

"Pathe's Weekly," Monday and Wednesday.

"Animated Weekly," Wednesday.

"Mutual-News Pictorial," Saturday.

"United States Government's Instructions to Young Farmers," Powers, March 27.

"Phosphate Mining," Kalem, March 27.

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FOUR NEW PLAYS

Feature Films of Widely Varying Types Are Shown.

Do you like a story which puts a lump in your throat right from the start and keeps it there until the very end? Do you like a story which breathes the spirit of the great outdoors and the sea? Then you will like "Tess of the Storm Country." As a novel it was a good piece of work, but in its new form as a motion picture it is even better. The Famous Players Company is one of those who regretfully small group of American film manufacturers who usually make pictures as they should be made. It is fortunate that "Tess of the Storm Country" has been so well handled, for we shudder to think what some producers would have done to a five-part film in which care has been exercised in the settings, with the result that they are at once appropriate and effective. Mary Pickford in the title role depicts the wild, unselfish, faithful little Tess with a rare charm, and does a perfect piece of acting. Tess is a most unconventional but thoroughly good girl who lives with her father among some squatters on the shore of a large lake. She ultimately finds happiness, but has some very bitter experiences during the course of the story. A number of novel comedy effects relieve the tension in several places.

"Tess of the Storm Country" will be shown in New York, beginning March 26. It will be exhibited in the Loew Theatres.

"IN MIZZOURA"

A rural play, such as Augustus Thomas' "In Mizoura," offers the producer of motion pictures an opportunity to display his art at its best. The atmosphere of the open country and a small village is a difficult effect to obtain on the stage, but quite easy for the camera. In the All-Star Feature Corporation's five-part production of "In Mizoura," which will be shown in New York commencing this

week, delightful scenic effects have been combined with really high class acting in a most happy way.

Burr McIntosh, in the role of Jo Vernon, leads the cast. As the sturdy village blacksmith Mr. McIntosh does a piece of acting fully the equal of his best on the legitimate stage. The other citizens of Pike County are portrayed nearly if not fully as well, not forgetting the little black pup the mending of whose broken leg leads Jim to financial success.

"In Mizoura" is a play which has a remarkable amount of human appeal. It is a story of everyday people, and interests the audience not because of strange or unusual scenes and events but because it depicts what has come within every one's experience. The motion picture production of the drama is a serious and decidedly successful dramatic effort, and is another example of what can be accomplished with films when a good scenario is carefully staged.

"THE CHRISTIAN."

Hal Caine's work "The Christian" has already attained greatness in two forms. As a book and as a play it attracted wide attention and received universal commendation. The motion picture version of the story, which is now running at the Manhattan Opera House, is worthy of the fame which the older forms have won. It is a noteworthy example of what can be done in motion pictures by a proper combination of experience, care and good sense.

The Lieber Company managed "The Christian" as a play for eight seasons. To produce it as a film they joined forces with the Vitaphone Company. The result is the best picture which the latter concern has yet produced.

The order of events in the novel is followed, and in the eight reels every chapter is depicted in exact accordance with the author's ideas. Mr. Caine made this possible by personally arranging the scenario. The incidents which occur along the shore of the Isle of Man are made particularly beautiful by the background of rocks and rolling surf. The interiors are so arranged as actually to look like the places they are supposed to represent, a feature which is distressingly rare in most American dramatic films.

The principal parts, those of Glory Quigley and John Storey, are played by Edith Storey and Earle Williams in a style which rivals the work of the best legitimate actors, and the other members of the cast are nearly all equally capable. To put it briefly, "The Christian" is so fine a production that it deserves to be ranked as one of the most important dramatic events of the season.

"SAMSON."

The producers of "Samson," which is now being shown at the Republic Theatre, just missed making a great picture. The photography is perfect, the settings are correct and the acting of the principals is excellent, but the whole effect is hurt by the wretched handling of the "mob" scenes. During a considerable part of the picture large crowds of supposed Philistines, or Israelites, are either in the background or actually taking part in the action. In every instance they are shown tossing their arms about in a lackadaisical and meaningless manner at the same time trotting around like Papuans in a war dance.

In other respects the picture possesses considerable merit. J. Warren Kerrigan has a physique which fits him for the part of Samson, and his acting is forceful and convincing. Delilah is well portrayed by his sister.

The producers of "Samson" were hampered by the fact that they were presenting a story which every one knows, and in which it was accordingly impossible to introduce any elements of surprise, but in spite of this the interest is well sustained. The picture has much educational value in that it presents a great Biblical story in a form which is particularly impressive to children.

The biggest feature is the fall of the Temple of Dagon, an event which is shown with remarkable realism. The effect of Oriental splendor is well brought out in a number of scenes, notably the one in which Samson meets Delilah.

AT THE HIPPODROME.

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Adelle Lane of Selig Plays an emotional actress of ability

had to be installed, which floods the stage with about 300,000 candle power in addition to the regular illumination. The big cast has been working in the mornings and on Sundays to get the films finished by the time the regular run closes, two weeks from now.

In making the film production of "America" many difficulties have been encountered owing to the numerous subdued light effects which are used in the stage production, while the fact that the scenery was not painted for photographic work also caused some trouble, but the action is all in the picture, and it should prove of much interest outside of New York City. In the portions so far developed the scenes in which the water tank figures are particularly effective. This is the first time that a regular stage in a theatre has been used for the production of a motion picture.

AN INNOVATION

Picture Made with Entire Cast of Legitimate Actors.

The appearance in the motion picture industry of Daniel V. Arthur, a man widely known as a successful producer of legitimate attractions, is full of significance. The importance of Mr. Arthur's plan is brought out in his own words. "The object of his company," he says, "is to present photo-plays as elaborate scenically and as perfect in histrionism as the finest attractions along Broadway and by so doing to transport Broadway to the remotest hamlets in the United States and to make the entire nation acquainted with the finest plays that have ever been produced in New York."

In order to accomplish this ambitious end Mr. Arthur will hold to a policy of producing all his plays with casts composed of actors and actresses who have met with success on the legitimate stage. "The Great Diamond Robbery," a melodrama which thrilled New York about twenty years ago, is the first picture of Mr. Arthur's concern, the Playgoers' Film Company, and it will be shown in a few days. The leading parts are played by Wallace Edgerton and Earl Kane, who are both appearing in "Seven Keys to Baldpate." Other prominent players in the cast are Charles J. Ross, Elita Proctor, Otto Martin, J. Alston, Edward Gillespie and Dorothy Arthur.

The next picture will be "Manon Lescaut," with Lina Cavalieri and Lucien Muratore in the leading roles, while the third film will feature William Faversham in a play yet to be selected. None of the actors or actresses mentioned have ever before appeared in motion pictures. The Playgoers' Film Company is attempting a decided innovation, and one that bids fair to be successful.

"The Great Diamond Robbery" was favorably received at a private showing yesterday. It will be reviewed next week.

CURRENT LICENSED FEATURES.

"The Colleen Hawke," Kalem (3 parts), March 18. A creditable adaptation of Boucquart's drama, actually taken in Ireland.

"The Better Way," Selig (2 parts), March 18. A drama which is above the average.

"Gypsy Love," Cines (2 parts), March 15. A fair story, beautifully staged and acted.

"The Price of Vanity," Vitaphone (2 parts), March 17. An extremely improbable but fairly interesting melodrama.

"The Award of Justice," Kalem (2 parts), March 18. A play of considerable appeal, but not well constructed.

"The Weaker Brother," Lubin (2 parts), March 18. A roaring tale of the Civil War, with a Yankee officer and his Southern sweetheart as the central figures.

"The Secret Marriage," Lubin (2 parts), March 19. Fairly interesting, but strangely unlikely.

"The Wasted Years," Pathe (2 parts), March 19. A conventional drama of an altered will, but rather well done.

"The Double Shadow," Edison (2 parts), March 20. An original story which is full of interest.

"Shadows," Essanay (2 parts), March 20. A melodrama which may depict counterfeiting correctly, but falls down on picturing newspaper work.

CURRENT FEATURE FILMS.

"THE THREE MUSKETEERS." Dumas's thrilling novel, in an attractive and well acted film version. Other pictures are shown as added attractions. At the New York Theatre.

"THE CHRISTIAN," at the Manhattan Opera House. See notice in another column.

"A MILLION BIDS," also "Goodness Gracious" and John Bunny and company. A good drama, a snappy burlesque and a clever pantomime personally acted at the Vitaphone Theatre.

"SAMSON," the life of the Old Testament hero done in motion pictures. At the Republic Theatre. See notice in another column.

"DOPE," unsatisfactory drama well acted. At Weber's Theatre.